

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 08707 230904Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-13 INSE-00 VO-05
INR-10 CIAE-00 /049 W
-----099569 232010Z /43

R 230835Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2067
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMCONSUL UDORN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8707

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF LA TH
SUBJECT: REFUGEE PROGRAM - TALK WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR

1. I DISCUSSED THE CURRENT STATUS OF HMONG REFUGEES
WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR PREM ON MARCH 22.
COLONEL KAMON WAS PRESENT.

2. GENERAL PREM CONFIRMED THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF MEO
ARE STILL ON THE LAO BANK OF THE MEKONG WAITING TO CROSS.
HE SAID HE BELIEVED THE REPORTS WE HAVE ALL BEEN GETTING WITH
REGARD TO THIS HEGIRA ARE TRUE AND THAT MANY MORE MORE WILL ENTER
THAILAND. PREM WENT ON TO DISCUSS WITH GREAT FERVOR THE GALLANTRY
OF THE MEO IN THEIR LONG CONFLICT WITH THE COMMUNISTS. IT WAS
OBVIOUS FROM THIS THAT THERE IS NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER IN
HIS MIND TO DENY THEM ADMISSION OR TO TURN THEM BACK. PREM DID
ASK FACETIOUSLY WHETHER THERE WAS NOT SOME WAY THE U S COULD HELP
THESE PEOPLE FIND SECURITY AND SUSTENANCE IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY.
I REPLIED THAT THIS WAS A TRACK WE HAD BEEN DOWN ONCE BEFORE
AND THAT WE HAD NO INTENTION OF REPEATING THE EXPERIENCE.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE PATHET LAO DEFECTORS, THEY ARE IN THE HANDS
OF ISOC AND THE THAI INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AND WILL NOT BE
TURNED BACK.

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4. I ASKED PREM WHETHER THE MEO ARRIVALS WOULD NOT ENGULF
THE NONG KHAI FACILITIES AND WHETHER HE WAS CONSIDERING OPENING
HIS NEW CENTER IN NAKHON PHANOM. PREM DID NOT SEEM WELL INFORMED
ON THE NKP CAMP. AFTER CHECKING WITH KAMON, HE REPLIED THAT
THERE WAS STILL ROOM IN NONG KHAI AND THAT HE WAS LOOKING INTO
OPENING NKP.

5. I SUBSEQUENTLY MET WITH GOODYEAR OF UNHCR. THAT TALK WILL
BE REPORTED SEPTTEL.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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